

House File 437 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 437

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a world language education pilot project to
2 be administered by the department of education and making an
3 appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256.34 World language education
2 pilot project.

3 1. The department shall establish a world language
4 education pilot project to enhance foreign language education
5 in Iowa schools. The department shall administer the pilot
6 project in partnership with the university of northern Iowa
7 and three school districts. One school district shall have an
8 enrollment greater than thirty thousand students, one school
9 district shall have boundaries which are partially or wholly
10 contained in Blackhawk county with an enrollment greater
11 than four thousand but less than six thousand students, and
12 one school district shall have an enrollment less than four
13 thousand students as of October 1, 2013.

14 2. The department shall establish a world language
15 education administrative team to be composed of school
16 administrators from school districts participating in the pilot
17 project. Team members shall conduct fact finding visits to
18 schools in the United States and at least one foreign school
19 that exemplify best practices for world class foreign language
20 education delivery models. Team members shall work with the
21 department and university of northern Iowa to develop standards
22 and benchmarks based on the latest edition of the national
23 standards for foreign language learning, to develop a written
24 and verbal assessment system that measures foreign language
25 competencies, and to support participating school districts in
26 the development of curricula based on the latest edition of the
27 national standards for foreign language learning.

28 3. Each school district participating in the pilot project,
29 in coordination with the department, shall compare on an annual
30 basis its results under the pilot project with state data
31 to determine the outcomes of the pilot project for student
32 learning.

33 4. The world language education administrative team, in
34 coordination with the department and the university of northern
35 Iowa, shall submit its findings and recommendations regarding

1 the pilot project and foreign language education in this state
2 in a report to the general assembly by December 19, 2014.

3 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the
4 general fund of the state to the department of education for
5 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30,
6 2014, the following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary,
7 to be used for the purpose designated:

8 For implementation of the world language education pilot
9 project:

10 \$ 350,000

11 EXPLANATION

12 This bill directs the department to establish a world
13 language education pilot project to enhance foreign language
14 education in Iowa schools. The department shall administer the
15 pilot project in partnership with the university of northern
16 Iowa and three school districts. One school district shall
17 have an enrollment greater than 30,000 students, one school
18 district shall have boundaries which are partially or wholly
19 contained in Blackhawk county with an enrollment greater than
20 4,000 but less than 6,000 students, and one school district
21 shall have an enrollment less than 4,000 students as of October
22 1, 2013.

23 The bill directs the department to establish a world
24 language education administrative team to be composed of school
25 administrators from school districts participating in the
26 pilot project and provides duties for the team, including fact
27 finding visits; development of new standards and benchmarks,
28 an assessment system, and curricula; and a report on the pilot
29 project and foreign language education in this state for
30 submission to the general assembly by December 19, 2014.

31 The bill directs participating school districts to compare
32 on an annual basis results under the pilot project with state
33 data to determine the outcomes of the pilot project.

34 The bill appropriates \$350,000 to the department of
35 education for fiscal year 2013-2014 for implementation of the

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1 world language education pilot project.